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4. Removal from place to place by means of wings.
Ere the bat hath flown
His cloyster'd flight. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
The fowls shall take their flight away together. *2 Esd. v. 6.*
Fowls, by Winter forc'd, forsake the floods,
And wing their hasty flight to happier lands. *Dryden's Æn.*
5. A flock of birds flying together.
Flights of angels wing thee to thy rest. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*
They take great pride in the feathers of birds; and this
they took from their ancestors of the mountains, who were
invited unto it by the infinite flights of birds that came up to
the high grounds. *Bacon's New Atlantis.*
I can at will, doubt not,
Command a table in this wilderness;
And call swift flights of angels ministrant,
Array'd in glory, on my cup attend. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
6. The birds produced in the same season; as, the harvest flight
of pigeons.
7. A volley; a shower; as much shot as is discharged at once.
At the first flight of arrows sent,
Full threefold Scots they flew. *Chevy Chase.*
Above an hundred arrows discharged on my left hand,
pricked me like so many needles; and besides they shot another
flight into the air, as we do bombs. *Gulliver's Travels.*
8. The space pass'd by flying.
9. Heat of imagination; rally of the soul.
Old Pindar's flights by him are reacht,
When on that gale his wings are stretcht. *Denham.*
He shew'd all the stretch of fancy at once; and if he has
failed in some of his flights, it was but because he attempted
every thing. *Pope's Preface to the Iliad.*
Strange graces still, and stranger flights the had;
Was just not ugly, and was just not mad. *Pope, Epistle ii.*
Trust me, dear! good humour can prevail,
When airs and flights, and screams and scolding fail. *Pope.*
10. Excursion on the wing.
If there were any certain height where the flights of ambi-
tion end, one might imagine that the interest of France were
but to converse its present greatness. *Temple.*
It is not only the utmost pitch of impiety, but the highest
flight of folly, to deride these things. *Tillotson, Sermon 2.*
11. The power of flying.
In my school-days, when I had lost one shaft,
I shot his fellow of the self-same flight.
The self-same way. *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*
- FLIGHTY. *adj.* [from flight.]
1. Fleeting; swift.
Time, thou anticipat'st my dread exploits:
The flighty purpose never is o'ertook,
Unless the deed go with it. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
2. Wild; full of imagination.
- FLIMSY. *adj.* [Of this word I know not any original, and
suspect it to have crept into our language from the cant of
manufacturers.]
1. Weak; feeble; without strength of texture.
2. Mean; spiritless; without force.
Proud of a vast extent of flimsy lines. *Pope, Epistle ii.*
- TO FLINCH. *v. n.* [corrupted from fling. *Skinner.*]
1. To shrink from any suffering or undertaking; to withdraw
from any pain or danger.
Every martyr could keep one eye steadily fixed upon im-
mortality, and look death and danger out of countenance
with the other; nor did they flinch from duty, for fear of
martyrdom. *South's Sermons.*
A child, by a constant course of kindness, may be accus-
tomed to bear very rough usage without flinching or com-
plaining. *Lake.*
Oh ingratitude, that John Bull, whom I have honoured
with my friendship, should flinch at last, and pretend that he
can disburse no more money. *Arbuthnot's History of John Bull.*
2. In *Shakespeare* it signifies to fail.
If I break time, or flinch in property
Of what I spoke, unpitied let me die. *Shakespeare.*
- FLINCHER. *n. f.* [from the verb.] He who shrinks or fails in
any matter.
- TO FLING. *preter. flung; part. flung or flong. v. a.* [from
flige, Latin, *Skinner*: according to others from flying; to
fling is to let flying.]
1. To cast from the hand; to throw.
The matrons flung their gloves,
Ladies and maids their scarfs and handkerchiefs
Upon him. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*
'Tis fate that flings the dice; and as the flings,
Of kings makes peasants, and of peasants kings. *Dryden.*
2. To dart; to cast with violence.
How much unlike that Hector who return'd
Clad in Achilles' spoils; when he, among
A thousand ships, like Jove, his lightning flung. *Denham.*
3. To scatter.
Ev'ry beam new transient colours flings,
Colours that change when'er they wave their wings. *Pope.*
4. To drive by violence.

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- A heap of rocks, falling, would expel the waters out of
their places with such a violence as to fling them among the
highest clouds. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
5. To move forcibly.
The knight seeing his habitation reduced to so small com-
pact, ordered all the apartments to be flung open. *Addison's Spect.*
 6. To eject; to dismiss.
Cromwell, I charge thee fling away ambition;
By that sin fell the angels. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
 7. To cast reproach.
I know thy generous temper:
Fling but the appearance of dishonour on it,
It straight takes fire. *Addison's Cat.*
 8. To force into another condition; properly into a worse.
Squalid fortune, into baseness flung,
Doth scorn the pride of wonted ornaments. *Spenser.*
 9. To FLING down. To demolish; to ruin.
These are so far from raising mountains, that they over-
turn and fling down some of those which were before stand-
ing. *Woodward's Natural History.*
 10. To FLING off. To baffle in the chase; to defeat of a prey.
These men are too well acquainted with the chase to be
flung off by any false steps or doubles. *Addison's Spectator.*
 - TO FLING. *v. n.*
1. To flounce; to wince; to fly into violent and irregular
motions.
The angry beast
Began to kick, and fling, and wince,
As if he had been beside his sense. *Hudibras, p. i. cant. 2.*
Their confidences are galled by it, and this makes them
wince and fling as if they had some mettle. *Tillotson's Sermon.*
 2. To FLING out. To grow unruly or outrageous: from the
act of any angry horse that throws out his legs.
Duncan's horses,
Turn'd wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,
Contending 'gainst obedience. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
 - FLING. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. A throw; a cast.
 2. A gibe; a sneer; a contemptuous remark.
No little scribbler is of wit so bare,
But has his fling at the poor wedded pair. *Addison.*
I, who love to have a fling
Both at senate-house and king,
Thought no method more commodious
Than to throw their vices odious. *Swift.*
 - FLINGER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. He who throws.
 2. He who jeers.
 - FLINT. *n. f.* [plint, Saxon.]
1. A semi-pellucid stone, composed of crystal debased, of a
blackish grey, of one similar and equal substance, free from
veins, and naturally invested with a whitish crust. It is some-
times smooth and equal, more frequently rough: its size is
various. It is well known to strike fire with steel. It is use-
ful in glassmaking. *Hill on Fulfil.*
Searching the window for a flint, I found
This paper. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.*
Love melts the rigour which the rocks have bred;
A flint will break upon a featherbed. *Cleaveland.*
There is the same force and the same refreshing virtue in
fire kindled by a spark from a flint, as if it were kindled by a
beam from the sun. *South's Sermons.*
Take this, and lay your flint edg'd weapon by. *Dryden.*
I'll fetch quick fuel from the neigh'ring wood,
And strike the sparkling flint, and dress the food. *Prior.*
 2. Any thing eminently or proverbially hard.
Your tears, a heart of flint
Might tender make. *Spenser.*
Throw my heart
Against the flint and hardness of my fault. *Sh. Ant. and Cleop.*
 - FLINTY. *adj.* [from flint.]
1. Made of flint; strong.
Tyrant custom
Hath made the flinty and steel couch of war
My thrice-driven bed of down. *Shakespeare's Othello.*
A pointed flinty rock, all bare and black,
Grew gibbous from behind the mountain's back. *Dryden.*
 2. Full of stones.
The gathering up of flints in flinty ground, and laying them
on heaps, is no good husbandry. *Bacon's Natural History.*
 3. Hard of heart; cruel; savage; inexorable.
I did him a desired office,
Dear almost as his life; which gratitude,
Through flinty Tartar's bosom, would peep forth,
And answer thanks. *Shakespeare's All's well that ends well.*
 - FLIPP. *n. f.* [A cant word.] A liquor much used in ships, made
by mixing beer with spirits and sugar.
 - FLIPPANT. *adj.* [A word of no great authority, probably de-
rived from flip-flap.]

x. Nimble;

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1. Nimble; moveable. It is used only of the act of speech.
An excellent anatomist promised to dissect a woman's tongue,
and examine whether there may not be in it certain juices,
which render it so wonderfully voluble or suppliant. *Addison.*
2. Pert; talkative.
Away with suppliant epilogues. *Thomson.*
- FLIPPANTLY. *adv.* [from the adjective.] In a flowing prating
way.
- TO FLIRT. *v. a.* [*Skinner* thinks it formed from the sound.]
1. To throw any thing with a quick elastic motion.
Dick the scavenger
Flirts from his cart the mud in Walpole's face. *Swift.*
2. To move with quickness.
Permit some happier man
To kiss your hand, or flirt your fan. *Dorset.*
- TO FLIRT. *v. n.*
1. To jeer; to gibe at one.
2. To run about perpetually; to be unsteady and fluttering.
- FLIRT. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. A quick elastic motion.
In unfurling the fan are several little flirts and vibrations;
as also gradual and deliberate openings. *Addison's Spectator.*
Before you pass th' imaginary fights
While the spread fan o'erhides your closing eyes,
Then give one flirt, and all the vision flies. *Pope.*
2. A sudden trick.
Have licence to play,
At the hedge a flirt,
For a sheet or a shirt. *Ben. Johnson's Gypsies.*
3. A pert young hussey.
Scurvy knave, I am none of his flirt gills; I am none of
his skains mates. *Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.*
Several young flirts about town had a design to cast us out
of the fashionable world. *Addison's Guardian, No. 109.*
- FLIRTATION. *n. f.* [from flirt.] A quick sprightly mo-
tion. A cant word among women.
A mullin flounce, made very full, would give a very agree-
able flirtation air. *Pope.*
- TO FLIRT. *v. n.* [from *To flirt*; or from *fitter*, Danish, to re-
move.]
1. To fly away.
Likett it seemeth, in my simple wit,
Unto the fair sunshine in Summer's day,
That when a dreadful storm away is flit,
Through the broad world doth spread his goodly ray. *Spenser.*
His grudging ghost did drive
With the frail flesh; at last it flitted is,
Whither the souls do die of men that live amiss. *Fairy Qu.*
2. To remove; to migrate. In Scotland it is still used for re-
moving from one place to another at quarter-day, or the usual
term.
So hardly he the flitted life does win,
Unto her native prison to return. *Fairy Queen, cant. 7.*
It became a received opinion, that the souls of men, de-
parting this life, did flit out one body into some other. *Hooker.*
3. To flutter; to rove on the wing.
He made a glancing shot, and mis'd the dove;
Yet mis'd so narrow, that he cut the cord
Which fasten'd, by the foot, the flitting bird. *Dryd. Æn.*
Fear the just gods, and think of Scylla's fate!
Chang'd to a bird, and sent to flit in air. *Pope.*
4. To be flux or unstable.
Himself up high he lifted from the ground,
And with strong flight did forcibly divide
The yielding air, which nigh too feeble found
Her flitting parts, and element unsound. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*
He stoop'd at once the passage of his wind,
And the free soul to flitting air resign'd. *Dryden's Æn.*
- FLIT. *adj.* [from flit.] Swift; nimble; quick.
And in his hand two darts exceeding flit,
And deadly sharp, he held; whose heads were dight,
In poison and in blood, of malice and despight. *Fairy Qu.*
- FLITCH. *n. f.* [piece, Saxon; flycke, Danish; fleche, fleche,
French. *Skinner.*] The side of a hog salted and cured.
But heretofore 'twas thought a sumptuous feast,
On birthdays, festivals, or days of state,
A salt dry flitch of bacon to prepare;
If they had fresh meat, 'twas delicious fare. *Dryden's Juv.*
While he from out the chimney took
A flitch of bacon off the hook,
Cut out large slices to be fry'd. *Swift.*
He sometimes accompanies the present with a flitch of
bacon.
- FLITTERMOUSE. *n. f.* The bat.
- FLITTING. *n. f.* [flit, Saxon, scandal.] An offence; a
fault.
Thou tell'st my flittings, put my tears into thy bottle. *Psalms lvi.*
- FLIX. *n. f.* [corrupted from flux.] Down; fur; soft hair.
With his loll'd tongue he faintly licks his prey;
His warm breath blows her flix up as the lies;
She trembling creeps upon the ground away,

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- And looks back to him with beseeching eyes. *Dryden.*
- FLIXWOOD. *n. f.* See HEDGE-MUSTARD.
- TO FLOAT. *v. n.* [flatter, French.]
1. To swim on the surface of the water.
When the sea was calm, all boats alike
Shew'd mastership in floating. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*
The ark no more now floats, but seems on ground,
Fast on the top of some high mountain fix'd. *Milt. P. L.*
That men, being drowned and sunk, do float the ninth
day, when their gall breaketh, are popular affirmations. *Brown.*
Three blurring nights, born by the southern blast,
I floated; and discover'd land at last. *Dryden's Æn. b. vi.*
His rosy wreath was dropt not long before,
Born by the tide of wine, and floating on the floor. *Dryden.*
On frothy billows thousands float the stream,
In cumb'rous mail, with love of farther shore. *Phillips.*
Carp are very apt to float away with fresh water. *Mortimer.*- 2. To move without labour in a fluid.
What divine monsters, O ye gods, were these
That float in air, and fly upon the seas! *Dryd. Ind. Emp.*
Swift they descend, with wing to wing conjoin'd,
Stretch their broad plumes, and float upon the wind. *Pope.*
- 3. To pass with a light irregular course.
Floating visions make not deep impressions enough to leave
in the mind clear, distinct, lasting ideas. *Locke.*
- TO FLOAT. *v. a.* To cover with water.
Proud Pætolus floats the fruitful lands,
And leaves a rich manure of golden sands. *Dryden's Æn.*
Venice looks, at a distance, like a great town half floated
by a deluge. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*
Now smoaks with show'rs the misty mountain-ground,
And floated fields lie undistinguish'd round. *Pope's Statius.*
The vast parterres a thousand hands shall make:
Lo! Cobham comes, and floats them with a lake. *Pope.*
- FLOAT. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. The act of floating; the flux; the contrary to the ebb. A
sense now out of use.
Our trust in the Almighty is, that with us contentions are
now at their highest float. *Hooker, Preface.*
Of this kind is some disposition of bodies to rotation, par-
ticularly from East to West; of which kind we conceive the
main float and refloat of the sea is, which is by consent of the
universe, as part of the diurnal motion. *Bacon's Nat. History.*
- 2. Any body so contrived or formed as to swim upon the water.
They took it for a ship, and, as it came nearer, for a boat;
but it proved a float of weeds and rushes. *L'Estrange's Fables.*
A passage for the weary people make;
With o'er floats the standing water flow;
Of mally stones make bridges, if it flow. *Dryden's Virgil.*
- 3. The cork or quill by which the angler discovers the bite of
a fish.
You will find this to be a very choice bait, sometimes cast-
ing a little of it into the place where your float swims. *Walt. n.*
- 4. A cant word for a level.
Banks are measured by the float or floor, which is eighteen
foot square, and one deep. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
- FLOATY. *adj.* Buoyant and swimming a-top.
The hindrance to stay well is the extreme length of a ship,
especially if she be floaty, and want sharpness of way for-
wards. *Raleigh's Essays.*
- FLOCK. *n. f.* [flocce, Saxon.]
1. A company; usually a company of birds or beasts.
She that hath a heart of that fine frame,
To pay this debt of love but to a brother,
How will the love when the rich golden shaft
Hath kill'd the flock of all affections else
That live in her. *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.*
- 2. A company of sheep, distinguished from herds, which are of
oxen.
The cattle in the fields, and meadows green,
Those rare and solitary; these in flocks
Pasturing at once, and in broad herds upspring. *Milton.*
France has a sheep by her, not only as a sacrifice, but to
shew that the riches of the country consisted chiefly in flocks
and pasturage. *Addison on ancient Medals.*
- 3. A body of men.
The heathen that had fled out of Judea came to Nicanor by
flocks. *2 Mac. xiv. 14.*
- 4. [From *fluere*.] A lock of wool.
A house well furnish'd shall be thine to keep;
And, for a flock bed, I can cheer my sheep. *Dryden.*
- TO FLOCK. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To gather in crowds or
large numbers.
Many young gentlemen flock to him every day, and fleet
the time carelessly. *Shakes. As you like it.*
Upon the return of the ambassadors, the poor of all sorts
flocked together to the great master's house. *Knolles's History.*
Others ran flocking out of their houses to the general sup-
plication. *2 Mac. iii. 18.*
Stilpo, when the people flocked about him, and that one
said, The people come wondering about you, as if it were to
see